



# Yavapai County Attorney

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**SHEILA POLK**  
Yavapai County Attorney

February 8, 2013

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer  
Arizona Governor  
Executive Tower  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

*Re: My support for Medicaid Expansion*

Dear Governor Brewer:

I am writing to express my support for your proposal to expand AHCCCS/Medicaid.

In Yavapai County, we are experiencing the impact of people with untreated medical and mental health conditions in our criminal justice system including in our jail, courts and probation departments. Had these individuals been receiving care for their chronic conditions, the situations that led them to incarceration may not have occurred. Their unstable health conditions put additional stressors and resource demands on our county criminal justice system. Law enforcement officers in the field are also seeing the impact of untreated mental health conditions among those who no longer qualify for AHCCCS/Medicaid. Formerly stable people with mild to moderate mental health disorders are taxing the resources of deputies, often unnecessarily.

We cannot lose sight of the connection between access to health care and public safety. I firmly believe that the expansion of AHCCCS/Medicaid is the most effective approach to address the challenges we are experiencing. The expansion will protect our rural communities by creating a safety net around our vulnerable mental health population through increased care. Making AHCCCS/Medicaid services more accessible to more Arizonans who are struggling economically will benefit the communities as a whole, including public safety.

Thank you for your vision and leadership in making the decision to expand Medicaid.

Very truly yours,

Sheila Sullivan Polk  
Yavapai County Attorney

C: Senator Steve Pierce  
Speaker Andy Tobin  
Representative Karen Fann